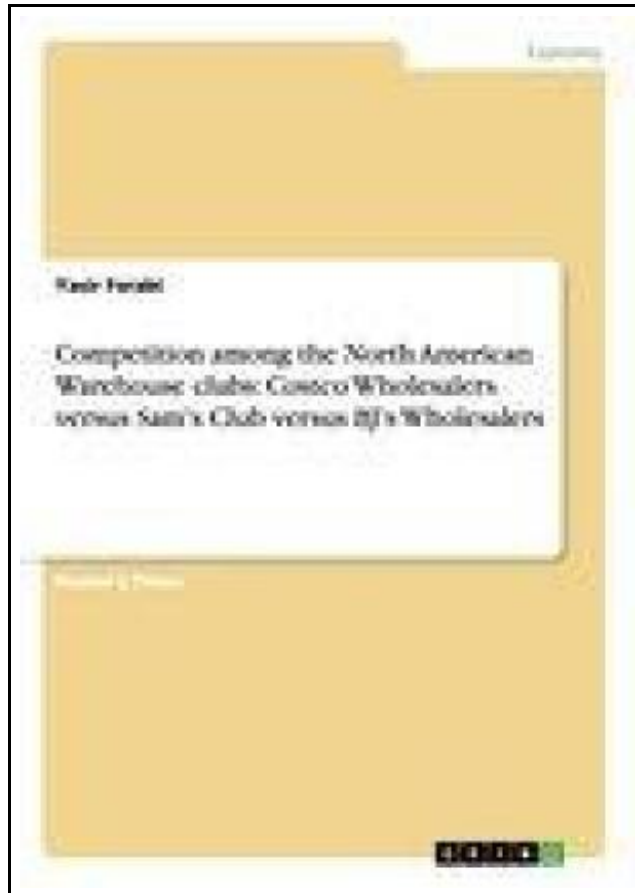


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COMPETITION AMONG THE NORTH AMERICAN WAREHOUSE CLUBS: COSTCO WHOLESALERS VERSUS SAM'S CLUB VERSUS BJ'S WHOLESALERS



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Grin Verlag Jul 2012, 2012. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Titel. - Master's Thesis from the year 2012 in the subject Business economics - Business Management, Corporate Governance, grade: -, University of New England, course: Strategic Management, language: English, abstract: The purpose of the report is to provide a detailed analysis of Costco industry external environment, critically analyse the company and provide a detailed analysis of resource and competitive position, identify the generic strategy Costco is using to achieve a source of competitive advantage and finally, develop a new five-year strategy for Costco. Costco Wholesale Corporation operates a chain of membership warehouses and with 592 warehouses across the globe; it is the largest and most profitable chain of its kind. Costco is partially vertically integrated with backward integration with Kirkland Signature Brand. External environment analysis using Porter's five forces model identifies that the industry faces low threats of new entrants, supplier and buyer bargaining power with moderate rivalry among competitors along with high threat of substitutes. Industry faces new challenges because of shifting demographics, household downsizing, more educated consumers and new channel formats. A comparative analysis of rival's market position shows that among its competitors, Costco possesses considerable market share. The generic competitive strategy adopted by Costco is that of the best-cost provider with low pricing, limited product selection and treasure-hunt merchandising being the three key elements of the company's business strategy. Low prices, very low employee's turnover, low overhead cost, loyal and affluent customer base, high inventory turnover, superb return policy, strong brand and scale of operations are found to be some of the key strengths of Costco. Some of the weaknesses identified as: less attractive store décor, inconsistent profit margins, unattractive location, not having...



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